Staff strength in Telephone Exchanges in Himachal Pradesh

†4996 : SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such telephone exchanges in rural and hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh where only one employee is working;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint additional staff for the convenience of the telephone subscribers;

(c) whether Government have received any representation for increasing staff strength in Jangla telephone exchange; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) :

(a) 512.

(b) Yes Sir, on need basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Against justification of one Telecom Mechanic, presently one Regular Mazdoor is posted. For posting of Telecom Mechanic, options from eligible officials have already been called.

Food items to BPL people under PDS

†4997. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat, rice, sugar and edible oils supplied to the people living above/Below Poverty Line under the Public Distribution System during the last three years and the current year, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the subsidy provided on these items for both categories, separately;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any request has been received from the States to increase the quota of these items during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The quantum of rice, wheat, sugar and edible oils allocated under the Public Distribution System to the States/UTs during the last three years and the current year is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 198 Annexure No. 22].

(b) The total subsidy on rice, wheat and sugar involved is as under:

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Sugar	Rice		Wheat	
		APL	BPL	APL	BPL
2000-2001	50.00	—	2977.24	—	1468.94
2001-2002	5.00	338.30	4289.51*	119.60	1927.56*
2002-2003	—	461.24	5754.92*	462.66	3222.24*

* includes subsidy under Antyodaya Anna Yojana

The financial assistance to the State Trading Corporation in the trading of import of RBD Palmolein for PDS on Government account is Rs. 36.85 crores, Rs. 10.15 crores, and Rs. 2.99 crores, for the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively.

(c) and (d) The allocation of foodgrains to all the States is made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all the categories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The number of BPL families has been fixed for each State on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and population projections of the Registrar General of India as on 1-3-2000. The basis of allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS has been applied uniformly to all the States/UTs without exception and cannot be changed in isolation for a particular State/UT. Hence requests for change in allocation on the basis of actual number of BPL families identified/Ration Cards issued by the State Governments being different from that the Planning Commission or any other basis have not been acceded to.